

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 1 in the "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" and replace it with the following:

a' This application claims the benefit of the filing date of corresponding U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/212,750, entitled "Multi-layer Mapping Tables Functions", filed June 20, 2000. In addition, the present invention is related to applications entitled A SYSTEM TO SUPPORT DYNAMICALLY FLEXIBLE DATA DEFINITIONS AND STORAGE REQUIREMENTS, serial no. 09/751,635, Attorney Docket Number 00-059-DSK; ~~EFFECTING INSTANT COPIES IN A DYNAMICALLY MAPPED SYSTEM~~, serial no. 09/751,635, Attorney Docket Number 00-060-DSK; ~~USING CURRENT RECOVERY MECHANISMS TO IMPLEMENT DYNAMIC MAPPING OPERATIONS~~, serial no. 09/751,635, Attorney Docket Number 00-061-DSK; ~~RECOVERY OF DYNAMIC MAPS AND DATA MANAGED THEREBY~~, serial no. 09/751,635, Attorney Docket Number 00-063-DSK; FLOATING VIRTUALIZATION LAYERS, serial no. 09/752,071, Attorney Docket Number 00-116-DSK, and SELF DEFINING DATA UNITS, serial no. 09/751,641, Attorney Docket Number 00-117-DSK, which are is-filed even date hereof, assigned to the same assignee, and incorporated herein by referenced reference.

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Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3, and replace it with the following:

Therefore, it would be advantageous to have a storage management system using a multi-layer virtual mapping scheme where the mapped units that are involved in managing storage allocation are tracked using a bit map and exception table, thus reducing the in which the number of table entries to be manipulated to perform storage management operations is reduced.